Map 61f
Sauk County
Includes Devil’s Lake State Park, Parfrey’s Glen, and Merrimac

Devil’s Lake State Park
Parfrey’s Glen
Merrimac Recreation Area

Steinke Basin
Ski Hi Rd.
Neuman Rd.
South Shore Rd.
Burma Lake Rd.

Devil’s Delight Rd.
O’Neil Rd.
Merrimac Dr.

Includes Devil’s Lake State Park, Parfrey’s Glen, and Merrimac

1:48,000 scale
Ice Age Trail
Connecting Route
Future Trail

0 1/2 1 mile

89°40’ 89°38’89°42’89°44’ 89°42’
43°26’ 43°24’

N

SAUK
COLUMBIA
DAANE
Devil’s Lake Segment  (Atlas Map 61f; Databook pages 55–56)

SNAPSHOT

10.9 miles: STH-113 Northern Trail Access to STH-113 Southern Trail Access

This is arguably the most dramatic Ice Age Trail segment of all, exploring Wisconsin’s largest and most-visited state park and offering magnificent views from 500-foot quartzite bluffs overlooking a 360-acre lake.

At various locations throughout Devil’s Lake State Park (DLSP).

From Devil’s Lake.

At DLSP campgrounds and several nearby private campgrounds (see Area Services).

Six ColdCache sites on segment.

By law, dogs must be leashed in DLSP.

Portions overlap DLSP roads, bike and ski trails. Hike well off to the side when ski trails are groomed.

Extensive DLSP trail network.

TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING

STH-113 Northern Trail Access: From the Baraboo area on USH-12, take exit 218 for STH-33 East and STH-136. Take STH-33 (Linn St. becomes 8th Ave.) east for 2.6 mi. At Washington Ave. turn right and go south 0.6 mi. At STH-113 turn left and continue south 3.8 mi to the parking area on the west side of the road.

STH-113 Southern Trail Access: From Baraboo area on USH-12, take exit 218 for STH-33 East and STH-136. Take STH-33 (Linn St. becomes 8th Ave.) east for 2.6 mi. At Washington Ave. turn right and go south 0.6 mi. At STH-113 turn left and continue south 5.3 mi to the parking area on the west side of the road. From Merrimac at the intersection of Baraboo St. and STH-113/78, take STH-113/78 west for 2.5 mi. Continue on STH-113 north for 2.3 mi to the DLSP Roznos Meadow parking area on the west side of the road.

Additional Parking: Parking areas throughout DLSP.

THE HIKE

Devil’s Lake State Park (DLSP) is a place of striking contrasts. The purple rock, called Baraboo quartzite, in the walls of Devil’s Lake gorge is more than 1.6 billion years old. The glacially deposited ridges or moraines that block both ends of the gorge are only about 16,000 years old. A three-dimensional topographical map of the park, found at the park’s Nature Center, shows that the moraines wrap around high points in the landscape. Ice filled the lowlands in the eastern part of the park and flowed into both ends of the gorge but did not advance onto the higher western parts of the landscape. The ice left behind two prominent moraines that plugged both ends of the ancient gorge, now occupied by Devil’s Lake.

These two moraine “plugs” and the way they create the lake are unique in the entire world. Breathtaking views of the western part of the park, part of the unglaciated Driftless Area, can be had from the many rock ledges the Ice Age Trail passes along the rim of the East Bluff. Cold airflow from the bluffs provides habitat for unusual northern plant species. Areas of dry prairie, red oak and maple forest are found atop the bluffs.
From the northern Trail access parking area on STH-113, a short blue-blazed spur trail leads to the Trail. From here the segment heads southwest and quickly intersects DLSP’s Upland Trail Loop. Hikers should turn right and hike northwest (following the loop counter-clockwise) for about a mile to a junction (SA6) with the park’s Johnson Moraine Loop. At the junction, hikers should turn right and head north across CTH-DL.

The segment makes its way west through a mix of meadows and woodlands, then drops down to the park’s Ice Age campground and intersects (SA5) the campground road between sites 419 and 420. The segment follows the campground road south and then west, then follows a park road out of the campground and under CTH-DL. The segment continues southwest along the park road, skirting the Northern Lights campground, turns sharply left past the park’s amphitheater, cuts through woods, eventually joins the Ice Age and Northern Lights campgrounds’ exit road and shortly reaches the park’s main exit road.Upon reaching the intersection (SA10) with the DLSP main exit road, hikers have arrived at the spot where the two branches of the Ice Age Trail bifurcation reunite. The connecting route from the western branch arrives from the Baraboo Segment down the park’s exit road.

From the bifurcation intersection, the segment crosses a set of railroad tracks and passes through the North Shore Picnic Area with a seasonal concession stand and continues west paralleling the north shore of Devil’s Lake on an asphalt path. The segment then makes its way northward from the lakeshore to connect with the park’s West Bluff Trail.

The portion following the West Bluff Trail climbs steeply to the top of the West Bluff, 500 feet above lake level. Along the top of the bluff there are lookout points where hikers will have excellent views of Devil’s Lake and the surrounding hills and moraines. Because it is in the Driftless Area, there are no erratics on the West Bluff. This is a popular rock climbing area that is said to have more than 2,000 possible climbing routes. The segment here passes through mixed woodlands with hardwoods and pine and features many woodland wildflowers such as jack-in-the-pulpit, Solomon’s seal, wild geranium, tinkers weed, tick trefoil and woodland milkweed.

The segment descends gradually down the West Bluff to the South Lake Road (South Lake Drive) (SA4). Hikers should head east along the left side of the road and the south shore of Devil’s Lake. At the point where the road leaves the lake, the segment turns left along a boardwalk and passes through the South Shore Picnic Area, with a seasonal concession stand, water and restrooms. Here the segment passes Bird Effigy Mound, the largest and most impressive of a number of Native American mounds in the park.

The segment crosses railroad tracks, turns left and follows the park’s Balanced Rock Trail up steep stone steps, past Balanced Rock (slightly off-trail) to an intersection with the park’s East Bluff Trail. This short section of Ice Age Trail can be a strenuous and challenging climb. Use caution when climbing on the rocks (especially when wet) and pay close attention to Trail signage. At the intersection with the East Bluff Trail, hikers should turn right and head east along the East Bluff Trail, which offers spectacular views of the South Bluff, Baraboo Hills and the
terminal moraine below. This portion of the segment is shaded in places by small oaks and gnarled red cedars. There are remnants of dry prairie here with flora including blazing star, leadplant, yellow false foxglove, shooting star, sunflower, goldenrod, aster and big bluestem grass. From the many rock ledges along the south face of the East Bluff, hikers can watch for turkey vultures and raptors soaring, sometimes at eye level. Signage points to a short loop trail to Devil's Doorway, the iconic rock formation of the park.

Moving along, the Trail quickly reaches a junction with the Potholes Trail. Hikers looking for an interesting but strenuous side trip can create a “loop trail” by hiking down the bluff on the Potholes Trail, turning east at the bottom of the bluff on the Grotto Trail and climbing back up the bluff on the CCC Trail to reconnect with the Ice Age Trail near the Moldy Buttress Cliffside rock formation. The Potholes Trail passes ancient potholes or depressions, not far below the top of the bluff, that were carved in the rock from fast moving water. The CCC Trail helps commemorate the CCC workers who built many of the trails in the park in the 1930s during the Great Depression. They were not allowed to use dynamite, so rocks were placed by hand labor.

Continuing east the segment departs (SA11) from the park’s East Bluff Trail by the Moldy Buttress cliffside rock formation via a connector trail heading north...
then east about 0.25 miles to reconnect with the park’s Upland Trail Loop. The segment follows the Upland Trail Loop east through woodlands and at another trail intersection (SA3) departs from the Upland Trail Loop and continues east, dropping down the south face of the East Bluff. Hikers may catch views of the largest unbroken sandstone escarpment in the park, a rare hanging sedge meadow and many rock outcrops. The segment passes a babbling brook in a diverse woodland with several species of fern and wildflowers such as mayapple, milkweed, goldenrod, aster and tick trefoil.

The segment crosses South Lake Road (South Lake Drive) and enters Roznos Meadow. Here the segment traverses open prairie and grassland, giving 360-degree views of the surrounding Baraboo Hills towering above. A National Park Service interpretive sign (SA9) explains the moraine dam, an important glacial feature that had a major influence on the creation of the surrounding landscape. The segment ends at the STH-113 southern Trail access parking area.


### POINTS OF INTEREST

**Aldo Leopold Legacy Center:** From the Baraboo area on USH-12, take exit 218 for STH-33 East and STH-136. Take STH-33 (Linn St. becomes 8th Ave.) east for 2.9 mi. At CTH-T turn left and go north 7.0 mi. At Levee Rd. (Rustic Road 49) turn left and go east 2.4 mi to the entrance of the Legacy Center on the right (E13701 Levee Rd., Baraboo, 608-355-0279, aldoepold.org).

The Aldo Leopold Foundation operates the Aldo Leopold Legacy Center, which is an educational and interpretive facility near the Leopold “Shack.” Here Aldo Leopold converted a chicken coop on his farm and wrote part of his conservation classic masterpiece on land ethics, *A Sand County Almanac*. This is also the very same land where Aldo Leopold died in 1948 fighting a brush fire. The Legacy Center is an excellent place to learn more about this famous American naturalist and see how the Leopold Foundation is carrying out his message of land ethics today. The Center is open from mid-April to the end of October with more limited hours during winter. Various guided and self-guided tours are available. Visit the website or contact the Aldo Leopold Foundation and Legacy Center for more information.

**International Crane Foundation (ICF):** From the Baraboo area on USH-12, exit 214 for North Reedsburg Rd. Take N. Reedsburg Rd. east 0.4 mi. At CTH-BD turn left and go north 1.0 mi. At Shady Lane Rd. turn right and go 1.0 mi. (E11376 Shady Lane Rd., Baraboo, 608-356-9462, savingcranes.org).

The International Crane Foundation (ICF) works worldwide to conserve cranes and the ecosystems, watersheds and flyways on which they depend. ICF is dedicated to providing experience, knowledge and inspiration to involve people in resolving threats to these ecosystems.

At its Baraboo headquarters, visitors can see all 15 species of cranes. The site offers guided and self-guided tours, an interactive educational center, live crane exhibits and over 4.0 mi of hiking trails over 100 acres of restored prairie, oak savanna and wetlands. The Baraboo headquarters is open to visitors from April 15 to October 31. Tours are provided daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day and on weekends in April, May, September and October.

### AREA SERVICES

**Devil’s Lake State Park (DLSP):** Seasonal concession stand, camping. On Trail (608-356-8301, dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/devilslake; reservations: 888-947-2757, wisconsin.goingtocamp.com).

**Local Area:** Restaurant, camping at Double K-D Ranch Campground (608-434-0346, doublekdranch.com); Wheeler’s Campground (608-356-4877, wheelerscampground.com) and Green Valley Campground (608-355-0090).

**Baraboo and West Baraboo:** See Baraboo Segment, p. 192. From the STH-113 northern Trail access go north ~5 mi. Also see Trail Access and Parking directions, above.
Must-Have Ice Age Trail Books!

The Ice Age Trail Guidebook features more than 100 detailed segment-by-segment descriptions and maps to help you connect with the thousand-mile Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Written for those seeking a wide range of adventures on the Ice Age Trail.

The Ice Age Trail Atlas is a set of 105 color, shaded relief-style maps at 1:48,000 scale. In contrast to the smaller map excerpts in the Ice Age Trail Guidebook, each map in this package is printed on an 8.5” x 11” sheet and includes not just the Ice Age Trail route but also a wider snapshot of the area around the Trail.

Both books were written and published by the Ice Age Trail Alliance. All proceeds for each book help build and maintain the Ice Age Trail. Please call the IATA at (800) 227-0046 with any questions.

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
City/State/Zip: ______________________________________
Phone: ___________________________ Email: ____________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guidebook</td>
<td></td>
<td>$24 (members) or $30 (nonmembers) =</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlas</td>
<td></td>
<td>$18 (members) or $22.50 (nonmembers) =</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales Tax</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.5% for orders shipped to a Wisconsin address =</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shipping</td>
<td></td>
<td>$8.00 for one book, $3.00 extra for each additional book =</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL =</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I have enclosed a check or money order payable to the Ice Age Trail Alliance
Please charge my Visa or MasterCard
Card #:
Expiration date: ____________________________
CVV # (on back of card) ____________________________
Amount: ____________________________
Signature: ____________________________

Please send this form to:
Ice Age Trail Alliance
PO Box 128
2110 Main Street
Cross Plains, WI 53528

5/25/2017